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EXTRA DISSENTERS FLEE!

Immingham, Lincolnshire, 1608 A large number of Separatist dissenters managed to escape the King's armed troops of horse and foot aboard a Dutch ship sailing from the River Humber. Authorities were able to apprehend the women and children before they could reach the ship. The local Justice must decide what shall be done with them.

William Bradford, writing in his history *Of Plimoth Plantation*, describes this heart-rending story and the terrifying voyage of the Dutch ship to Holland 400 years ago.

In the fall of 1607, having decided that they no longer could endure the persecution by the Church of England for their refusal to conform, the members of the Scrooby Separatist congregation had tried unsuccessfully to flee from Boston, Lincolnshire, to Holland where they knew they would find religious toleration. William Bradford and William Brewster were among them. It was against the law to leave England without a license and Roman Catholics and dissenters such as the Separatists were not given one. Due to



Plaque in the Guild Hall, Boston, Lincolnshire, commemorating the trial there of the Separatists while imprisoned during first attempt to flee to Holland in 1607. Photo by the late Richard H. Maxwell

treachery of the captain of the ship engaged to ferry them there, they were apprehended by the authorities, stripped of their possessions, and imprisoned for a month in Boston.

Trying again in the spring of 1608, they gathered near Immingham some 65 miles to the north of Boston for a second attempt. The men arrived by land and the women and children came by a bark. The ship became stuck in the mud at low tide and



Locations in Lincolnshire of Immingham (upper arrow) and Boston (lower arrow).

by the time it was freed, about half of the men had already been taken aboard a Dutch ship hired for the escape. A small boat was sent to get the remaining men, women and children but before it could complete the trip the Dutch captain saw "a great company of horse and foot, with bills and guns and other weapons" coming to prevent the departure and he ordered the ship to sea. And so, many of them were once again prisoners of the authorities and once again the authorities had to decide what to do with them. Apparently it was decided that the easiest thing to do was to let them depart for Holland. There is evidence that they were reunited by August in Amsterdam. They would stay there until the following year when they received permission to relocate to Leiden.

The Journey of the Separatists Men to Holland

Having set sail from the River Humber, all aboard, including the crew, were to face a voyage that even those who would make the 66 day winter of *continued*

Any comments about this newsletter? The editor would like to hear them. Please address them to Stacy B. C. Wood, Jr., Editor, JR PA Mayflower at 1530 S. Juniper St., Philadelphia, PA 19147-6218 or by e-mail to sbcwjr@comcast.net.



Dutch ship similar to the type that picked up the Scrooby congregation off Immingham. Engraving after A. van de Venne, ca. 1625. Courtesy Leiden American Pilgrim Museum, Jeremy D. Bangs, Ph.D., Director.

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1620 voyage in the *Mayflower* would never forget. Unfortunately, the identities of those aboard are unknown so we may never know if our own ancestors were among them, although Bradford, in his history *Of Plimoth Plantation*, writes as though he was an eye witness as he may well have been. What follows is part of Bradford's account in his own spelling and grammar. Our Pennsylvania Society has a facsimile copy of his history, but due to his style of script, only a small portion in Bradford's handwriting is shown below.

(his countreys oath) sacramente; and having f mnd favee managed his ancor, hoysed sayles & away. But f poore-men which were gott aboard, were in great distreß for their wives, & children, which they saw thus to be taken, and were left destitute of their helps; & them selves also, not having

A few lines in Bradford's own handwriting from his history.

"But ye poore men which were gott aboard, were in great distreß for their wives and children, which they saw thus to be taken, and were left destitute of their helps; and them selves also, not having a cloath to shifte them with, more then they had on their baks, & some scarce a peney aboute them, all they had being aboard ye barke. It drew tears from their eyes, and any thing they had they would have given to have been a

shore againe; but all in vaine, ther was no remedy, they must thus sadly part. And afterward endured a fearfull storme at sea, being 14. days or more before yey arived at their porte, in 7. wherof they neither saw son, moone, nor stars, & were driven near ye coast of Norway; the mariners them selves often despairing of life; and once with shriks & cries gave over all, as if ye ship had been foundred in ye sea, & they sinking without recoverie; for ye ship rose againe, & gave ye mariners courage againe to manage her. And if modestie would suffer me, I might declare with what fervente prayres they cried unto ye Lord in this great distres, (espetially some of them,) even without any great distraction, when ye water rane into their mouthes & ears; & the mariners cried out, We sinke, we sinke; they cried (if not with mirakelous, yet with a great hight or degree of devine faith), Yet Lord thou canst save, yet Lord thou canst save; with shuch other expressions as I will forbear. Upon which ye ship did not only recover, but shortly after ye violence of ye storme begane to abate, and ye Lord filed their afflicted minds with shuch comforts as



"The Seas Were So High" by marine artist Mike Haywood, used by permission. Although this painting shows the *Mayflower* on its 1620 voyage, it shows the fury of a storm at sea.

every one canot understand, and in ye end brought them to their desired Haven, wher ye people came flocking admiring their deliverance, the storme having ben so longe & sore, in which much hurt had been don, as ye masters friends related unto him in ther congratulations."

Although there are words spelled differently than they are today, could you understand what they meant? Many of us saw the TV show "Desperate Crossing." How do you think this voyage 400 years ago compares?

SOME WORDS HAVE TWO OR MORE MEANINGS

Can you match images that are homonyms (the same word)?



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J

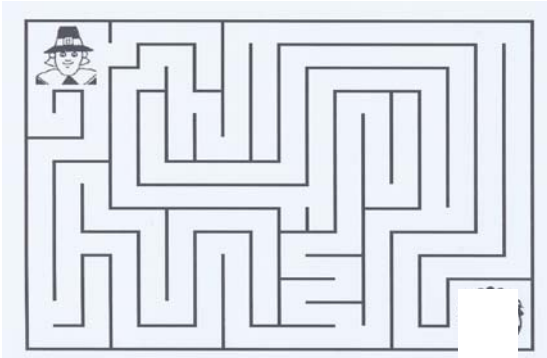
ANSWERS: Did you find the word that is shown 6 times? It is “bill” and the pictures are B (the long “bill” of a hat), H (a dollar bill), I (three types of ducks bills) and J (the 16-17th century long hooked-bladed weapon called a “bill” that the authorities had besides guns and other unnamed weapons). A and F are “bark,” A being the type of ship (also spelled “barque”) that the Scrooby women and children were on, while F is the “bark” of a tree. C is our Society’s ship *Mayflower* logo and G is the “mayflower” for which the ship was named. D is “sink” and shows that happening to a ship and of course E is a kitchen “sink.”

AMAZED THAT THEY GOT THERE!

Can you get the Scrooby congregation from Immingham, England, to Amsterdam, Holland in less than two weeks?



The 1924 Immingham memorial to the Scrooby congregation’s successful escape in 1608.



The port of Amsterdam where they lived for 1 year before relocating to Leiden.



SPELLING THEN & NOW 16 X 20 WORDSEARCH

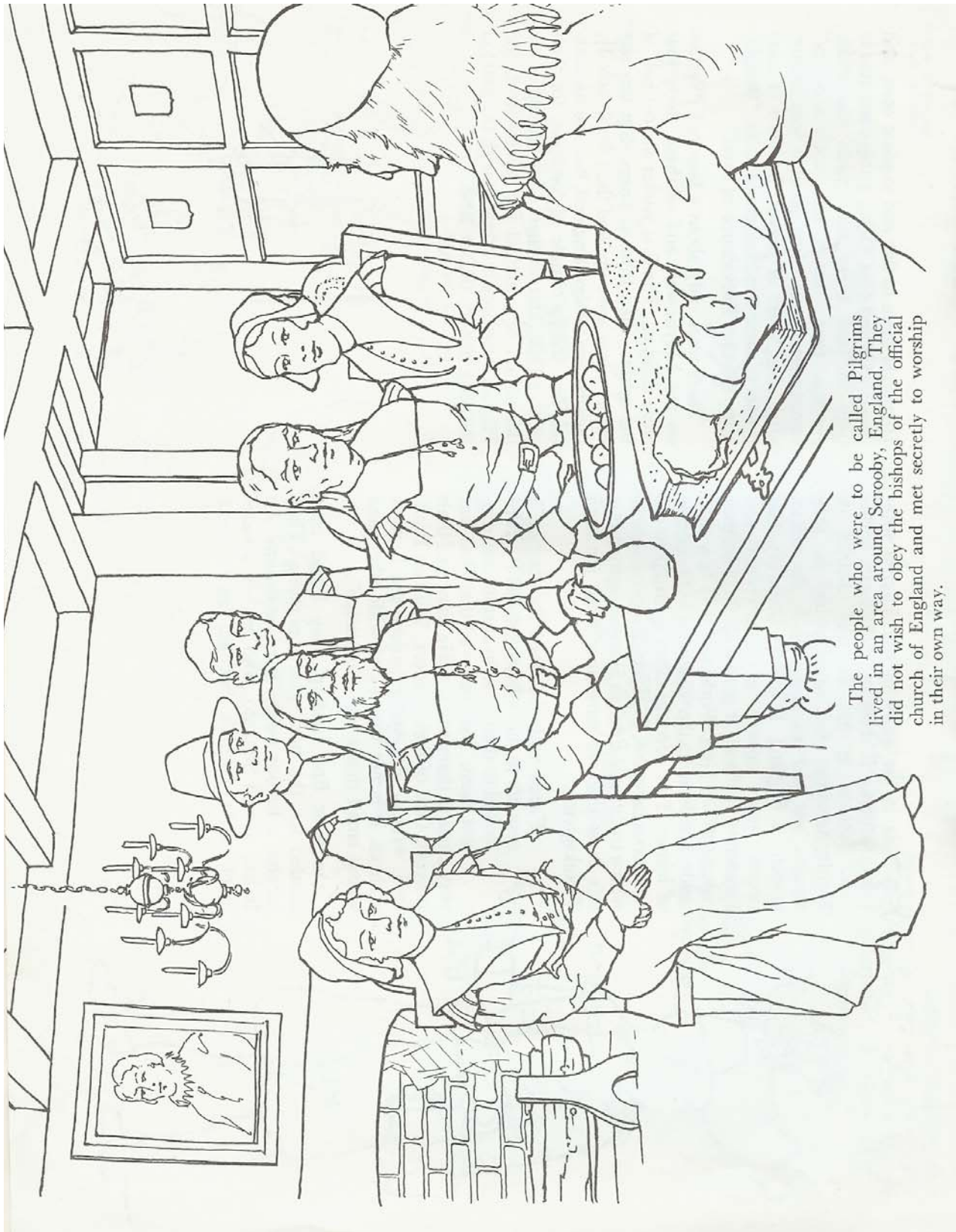
E H U M B E R E H T R E A C H E R Y T E
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E T I D E E A G A I N E V A H D E A K Q
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G O A I D D E S F N A M M A I E I M I L
N L B S P R N R I O C I L E N M P O H P
I C O H N L M E M I R G L I P E L C S O
E Y R U O S A T H A N D W R I T I N G O
K L D C T C Y N K E T F I H S A M N P R
C A N H S R F E T G R S I L S T O R M E
O I A M O O L S Y A O P H I G H T G E G
L T L U B O O S R N T T P I M M H U Y A
F E L E U B W I E T S I T A R A P E S Y
W P O S S Y E D O N E F O U N D R E D O
O S H U B A R K E M A H G N I M M I U V
L E M M S K A B I L L S G U I L D R O N

SPELLING THEN & NOW 16 X 20 WORDSEARCH

The following words are found in this issue. All are spelled the way they appear in the articles. Some will be from Bradford’s history as he spelled them in the 1630s and they are followed by their modern spelling in brackets. Realize that English dictionaries didn’t become popular until the the mid-1700s although the first known one was published in 1604 by Robert Cawdrey. Most literate people in the 17th century spelled words according to how they were pronounced. The unused letters answer the question “What museum dedicated to the Separatists is in Leiden?” **THE WORDS:** ABORD [aboard], AGAINE [again], APPREHENDED, ARIVED [arrived], BAKS [backs], BARKE [bark or barque], BILLS, BOSTON, BRADFORD, CLOATH [cloth], COMPANY, DISSENTERS, DON [done], ENGLAND, ESPETIALY [especially], EYE, FLOCKEING [flocking], FOUNDRED [foundered], GOTT [got], GUILD, HANDWRITING, HAVEN, HIGHT [height], HOLLAND, HUMBER, IMMINGHAM, IMPRISONED, LEIDEN, LINCOLNSHIRE, LOW, MAXWELL, MAYFLOWER, MIRAKELOUS [miraculous], MUD, MUSEUM, NOR, NORWAY, PILGRIM, PLANTATION, PLAQUE, PLIMOTH, POORE [poor], RANE [ran], SCROOBY, SEPARATIST, SHIFTE [shift], SHIRKS [shrieks], SHUCH [such], SON [sun], STORME [storm], THER [there], TIDE, TREACHERY, VOYAGE, WEAPONS, YEY [they], YE [the]. **Note:** “ye” is pronounced “the” because the letter “y” is the Anglo-Saxon (they conquered Britain in the 5-6th centuries) character “thorn” and is pronounced the same as “th.” It can be used, but now rarely, as “yey” as in “they,” and “yat” as in “that.” But, please, not “yy” for “thy”!

UNUSED LETTERS FROM SPELLING THEN & NOW: The Leiden American Pilgrim Museum.

A PAGE TO COLOR



The people who were to be called Pilgrims lived in an area around Scrooby, England. They did not wish to obey the bishops of the official church of England and met secretly to worship in their own way.